

POETRY REFLECTIONS*

Christa Armantrout's Fourth-grade Talented and Gifted Class
Sommer Elementary School, Round Rock, Texas

From Payton:

Baby I fear
If you sing and pray
Your way to jails
Something just awful will happen.

For hoses and dogs will show no mercy
To even children marching down those streets.

I know, Mama, I know
I am willing to sacrifice.

Do not worry about me
For I wish to be free.

You are a hero, my child, a hero.

I know, Mama, I know
But there is nothing, zero,
That will make me change
My mind.
I AM MARCHING TODAY!

From Claire:

Addie Mae Collins
was one of the few
that didn't march for freedom
that day, down in
the basement of the
Birmingham Church were
three other girls and
Addie Mae. Then
out of the blue came an
explosion, and then
the world shook
and the children's parents
came to see the
commotion, and then
their hearts it took.
We will remember
that day, those three other
girls, and Addie Mae.

* Students chose five words and did a rewrite with "Ballad of Birmingham" by Dudley Randall.